

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 10-29 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed July 12, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 10-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,900 to Ginter ("Ginter") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,666,493 to Wojcik ("Wojcik").

The Applicant submits that Ginter does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and therefore, does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The present application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/336,247, now U.S. Patent No. 5,986,690 ("the '690 patent"), which was filed on November 7, 1994. The present claims are supported by the disclosure of the '690 patent. Ginter was filed on August 30, 1996. As the priority date of the present application precedes the filing date of Ginter, the Applicant submits that Ginter is not prior art.

For at least this reason, the Applicant submits that claims 10-29 are allowable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, with reference to Attorney Docket No. 026880-00034.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheree Rowe", written in a cursive style.

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